

Quarterly Progress Report cum PO's ReportQuarter: (Tick) **1**/ 2/ 3/ 4

Project: India High Range Mountain Landscape

Date: 12.04.2021

1. Project Progress

Expected Project Outputs and Indicators including Annual Targets	Planned Activities (List all activities including M&E during the year)	Activity Progress in Quarter – Comments by PO	Quarter (Highlight the completed quarter)				Comments by PO on the activity progress	Targeted Expenditure for the year	Actual Expenditure in Quarter 1	Reasons for Under Expenditure in Quarter X, if any
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Outcome 1 : Strengthened capacities for community based sustainable use and management of natural resources										
Outcome 1: Outputs <i>1.1 Capacities of Local Self</i>	<i>1.1.1 Workshops/meetings and consultations/discussions with relevant stakeholders</i>	Disaster Risk Reduction Bioengineering techniques are adopted in designing and implementing a pilot					The office bearers of the LSGIs in Kerala took charge towards the end of December 2021. A primary task was to familiarize the new panchayath members			

<p><i>Governments and community organizations developed to plan for sustainable resource use</i></p>	<p><i>on project related activities – (Government officials, Panchayat functionaries, elected representatives and community members)</i></p>	<p>programme for ecosystem-based landslide risk reduction and stream bank stabilization in the project landscape. An online consultative workshop to gather expertise and guidance for this activity was organised in January 2021 in partnership with Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR)</p> <p>Passion fruit value chain intervention The overall objective of the assignment is the promotion of Passion fruit value chain for conservation based sustainable livelihood practices in the project landscape. Developing suitable varieties and agro technology, enhancing participatory dissemination of agricultural technologies and information to the farming community will help in popularizing the crop.</p> <p>A farmer level training workshop conducted at Adimali (Idukki District) on passion fruit value added product and processing was attended by 18 farmers in March, 2021.</p> <p>Traditional agricultural practices and seed conservation Objective of this assignment is the promotion of traditional agricultural practices suitable for landscape characteristics.</p>					<p>about the project activities. The Model Code of Conduct declared in the end of February 2021 carried on till the end of March 31st, 2021. This hampered project activities especially meetings and inaugurations at the Panchayath level. The team also coordinated the visits for the Mid Term Review that was held in February 2021.</p>		
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		<p>Conducted meetings in tribal settlements at Adimali, Vattavada, Marayoor GPs located in Idukki District to discuss conservation-based agriculture methods, conservation of indigenous seeds, millets cultivation and importance of food crops cultivation.</p> <p>Medicinal plant project It is aimed at expanding the cultivation of indigenous medicinal plant species which can be utilized by the households for remedial purpose along with contributing towards biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>An orientation workshop on homestead medicinal plants was conducted in Marayoor, Devikulam in Idukki district and Athirappilly Grama Panchayath in Thrissur district during March 2021.</p> <p>Bamboo & reed project Through this intervention the objective is to provide complete support to the local communities dependent upon bamboo and reed-based livelihoods with required skilling, training, capacity building, equipping them with marketing strategies, enhancing the product quality, product lines and building institutional mechanisms. Orientation workshop was conducted at Kuttampuzha</p>							
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		<p>Panchayath in Ernakulam District with community members during March 2021.</p> <p>Carbon Neutral Mankulam Through the project, a unique attempt is being made to develop Mankulam Grama Panchayath as a Carbon neutral panchayath. Mankulam Panchayath has over 1000 farmers practicing organic agriculture and is very rich in forest cover. The first stage of this effort is to understand the quantum of carbon emissions and carbon sinks in the panchayath. Conducted physical as well as virtual meetings in February 2021 with Mankulam Panchayath functionaries and other stakeholders on Carbon Neutral activities. A physical stakeholder consultation meeting was to be held during the first week of March 2021, it was postponed due to Model Code of Conduct active prior to the State level elections.</p> <p>Waste Management Discussions were held with Idukki District Collector (DC) in January 2021 to brief him about the current challenges in Waste Management in Munnar. Based on the discussion following actions were taken. I. A location was identified in Munnar for initiating bio and non-bio waste management plants</p>							
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		<p>II. It was decided that green checkpoints would be established on the pathway to Munnar to develop it as a green corridor and</p> <p>III. Various waste management programmes in Munnar would be converged.</p> <p>In March 2021, meetings were held with the Sub Collector-Devikulam, Idukki to seek support for waste management, water quality improvement, and disaster management. Key decisions taken were to prepare a DPR and bye law for green check points, converting the buildings in Kallar dumpsite as temporary facilities for waste processing, developing an IEC and BCC plan for waste management in Munnar and to develop a comprehensive waste management Detailed Project Report for Munnar, Idukki District.</p> <p>Throughout January 2021, meetings were held with Adimali, Chinnakanal, Devikulam and Adimali Grama Panchayaths in Idukki district to initiate decentralized waste management systems.</p> <p>17th Jan 2021 - Conducted meeting with Panchayath President and responsible partners to review the work related to Green Corridor at Athirapilly tourist destination and waste management efforts.</p>								
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		<p>18th Jan 2021 - Held discussions with Panchayath officials, newly elected Panchayath Committee and Hi Tech - technical agency supporting the waste management efforts in the Kuttampuzha panchayath in Ernakulam district.</p> <p>Mid Term Review</p> <p>Several online and physical meetings were held with the MTR Consultants. The online meetings held included the HKM Team; the Addl. Chief Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs; Director, Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Kerala University of Fisheries and Oceanic Studeis, Energy Management Centre; Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History. The physical meetings included the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Landscape architects for Athirapilly Green Corridor○ Haritha Karma Sena members as part of waste management efforts in Athirapilly○ Athirapilly Panchayath officials and members○ Athirapilly Tribal Valley Project officials○ MGNREGS workers in Adimali as part of Deviyar riverbank stabilization○ Tribal community members in Pettimudi part of traditional seed conservation								
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adimali Govt School students and authorities as part of the Pachathuruthu/ Green Islands ○ Orchidarium/ Orchid Interpretation Centre in Eravikulam NP ○ Central Nursery, Devikulam ○ Meeting with IRTC officials and HKM District Coordinator on Green Munnar initiatives ○ Meeting with Munnar GP officials and GP President & Vice President on Green Munnar initiatives ○ Interaction with project team members ○ Meeting with Forest Department officials ○ Visit to Pazhathottam Eco restoration site ○ Interaction at Marayoor DFO office regarding Punarjeevanam and Lemon grass interventions ○ Interaction with stakeholders of Community tourism related interventions in Kuttampuzha 							
	1.1.2 Develop IEC products on project related activities	Knowledge Products Prepared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Annual Report 2020 • Project Brochure- English & Malayalam 				The activity is on track			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Day – 4 videos, • Forest Day – 1 video on eco restoration • Vanasree – 1 video • Blogs – Seed conservation • Leaflets – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicinal Plants, • Paddy Cultivation, • Sustainable Tourism • Tweets – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Up Mission Bootcamp, • Women’s day message by Haritha Karma Sena member, • Eco restoration • Handbook on Green Annual plans for Panchayaths 								
	<p><i>1.1.3 Training relevant stakeholders for mainstreaming BD considerations – (for Government officials, Panchayat functionaries elected representatives and community members)</i></p>	<p>A major intervention under the project is to mainstream biodiversity conservation in the local self-government institutions in the landscape. Local Self Government Institutions (LSGI) are mandated to develop annual plans, in consultation with the community members, which</p>					<p>The activity is on track. However, Covid restrictions made it difficult to hold physical meetings/ workshops.</p>			

		<p>forms the basis for the activities of the LSGI for the entire year. The project aims to convert the LSGI plans into green plans through a series of capacity building programmes with the LSGI members and officials. Methodology for green plans were developed. Training of Trainers (ToTs) for Green Plans conducted. Completed training and workshops (Elected representatives; District & Block level officials) for Green Plans for 11 GPs. Incorporated green components into annual plans of 11 GPs. Training modules, and PPT developed in Malayalam and Tamil on Green Plans and methodology. Draft Handbook on Green Methodology developed in Malayalam. Launched online certificate programme on Green Plans for CBOs. (Due to Model Code Of Conduct in place, meetings and trainings were limited)</p>							
	<i>1.1.4 Exposure visit of select stakeholders to other landscape approach-based conservation models</i>	This could not be done due to Covid restrictions.							
	<i>1.1.5 Technical studies to establish baseline, assess impacts of current resource use practices in the landscape</i>	Discussions were held to close the final reports of the agencies.							

<p>Output 1.2: Sustainable resource use practices demonstrated for improved quality of life</p>	<p>Waste Management outside forest areas 1.2.1 Implementation of "Green Munnar" Project for (Dumpsite clearance, treatment of bio & non-bio waste, campaigns for waste reduction, Septage treatment and Nallathanni river rejuvenation)</p>	<p>Munnar (Idukki District) Munnar is a popular tourism destination in South India attracting tourists because of the unique biodiversity in the area like the Nilgiri Tahr, the Neelarkurunji, shola-based ecosystem etc and because of the rivers and streams in the region. However, the Munnar destination faces several challenges related to Waste Management including uncontrolled dumping of waste (over 40 dumping points have been identified across the landscape), large dumpyards polluting the river streams and with high volumes of waste generated per day. One of the major interventions under the UNDP project is to put in place scientific solutions to address these challenges. As part of these, the following activities were undertaken in this quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action based research study on processing of bio waste was completed by IRTC (technical agency supported through UNDP Project) by setting up an experimental facility in Kallar, Munnar near the dump site. Used Windrow composting technology to check composting at low temperature regions. - Comparisons with other technologies of bio waste management were also conducted through which it was found that windrow 					<p>This activity gained traction during this quarter.</p>		
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		<p>composting is the most suitable method given the weather conditions in Munnar. The end product would be compost which can be used for organic agriculture, especially in nearby plantations which use extensive chemical fertilizers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A locally generated inoculum was developed by IRTC to support faster composting which is a local innovation.- Draft DPR for comprehensive waste management of Munnar was developed by IRTC (technical agency supported through UNDP Project)- IEC and BCC plan developed for waste segregation at source- Check points and nodes for facilitation centers were identified as part of developing a Green Corridor in Munnar. This requires a convergence from multiple panchayaths as well as stakeholders.- A draft DPR and a bye law were developed for the green check points which will be operationalized as a society under Kudumbashree.- As part of Nallathanni river rejuvenation, site visits were held in February-March and initial								
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		assessment was conducted. Water quality tests were conducted with assistance from Kerala Pollution Control Board. Hotspots for intervention were identified							
	<i>1.2.2 Waste Management interventions in Athirapilly and other GPs in the landscape</i>	<p>Athirappilly (Thrissur District)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Material Collection Facility for non-bio waste (constructed by the Panchayath with technical assistance from the UNDP IHRML project) is operational through which waste segregation happens frequently; also initiated waste clearance through Clean Kerala Company. - Door to door collection is ongoing for non-bio waste; covered 15% of HHs for user fee collection - Aroormuzhi community hall node is being developed as a facilitation centre for tourists, As a green literacy centre, it will capture the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle principle for solid waste - Initial installations including waste deposit box made from upcycled materials, signages etc have been placed; work on other installations is ongoing - Discussions held with Kudumbashree and Panchayath to initiate a restaurant in the same compound 				The activity is on track			

		<p>- As an additional livelihood activity, the Haritha Karma Sena members are also nurturing a nursery developed as part of the medicinal plant activity</p> <p>Apart from the activities progressing for strengthening the waste management system initiated under the project, the following other activities were held in other Grama Panchayaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kuttampuzha (Ernakulam District), Mankulam, Kanthalloor and Marayoor (Idukki District): Trainings held for Haritha Karma Sena members and newly elected panchayath members.- Chinnakanal (Idukki District): Roadside dumping cleared across the panchayath as a one-time activity- Mankulam (Idukki District): Haritha Karma Sena members (Group of sanitation workers positioned in the Grama Panchayath for waste management under the project) felicitated on Women's Day in March 2021. During the event, health & safety kits along with native fruit species							
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		saplings were also distributed.							
	<i>Water Resource Management 1.2.3 Demonstration of measures for better water harvesting in the landscape based on the Integrated Watershed Management Plans prepared for 11 Gram Panchayats in consultation with all relevant stakeholders</i>	This assignment has been decided to be discontinued to focus more on the cleanup of Nallathanni River							
	<i>Carbon-neutral Panchayat 1.2.4 Action based project to make Mankulam a carbon neutral Panchayat</i>	<p>Through the project, a unique attempt is being made to develop Mankulam Grama Panchayath as a Carbon neutral panchayath. Mankulam Panchayath has over 1000 farmers practicing organic agriculture and is very rich in forest cover.</p> <p>The first stage of this effort is to understand the quantum of carbon emissions and carbon sinks in the panchayath.</p> <p>Conducted physical as well as virtual meetings in February 2021 with Mankulam Panchayat functionaries and other stakeholders on Carbon Neutral activities. As an outcome, while a physical stakeholder consultation meeting was to be held during the first week of March 2021, it was postponed due to Model Code of Conduct active prior to the State level elections.</p>				The activity is on track. A meeting planned at the panchayath had to postponed as a result of Model Code of Conduct.			

		<p>Conducted field visit to Mankulam Grama Panchayath (Idukki District) in March 2021 as part of inception report preparation. Advisors of Center of Excellence in Systems Energy and Environment, field investigator and Cluster Coordinator participated. Discussion was held between chairpersons of education and health standing committee of GP; farmers on present agricultural practices including cardamom; visited one tribal settlement and Mankulam GP office as part of landscape familiarity and primary information gathering</p> <p>Field visit conducted by Energy Management Centre for undertaking the assessment of micro hydro project status in the month of Feb 2021</p>							
<p>Output 1.3: Enhanced products/services value chains developed for providing ecologically sustainable livelihoods options</p>	<p><i>1.3.1 Sustainable livelihood practices for Tribal communities NTFP (including branding & marketing of Vamasree shops & products), Bamboo & Reed Agri and allied sectors</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Enhancement of reservoir fish production and creation of livelihood opportunities for the tribal community in Munnar Landscape through development of aquaculture practices of native species,</i></p>	<p>Native fish species promotion</p> <p>Enhancing reservoir fish production and creation of livelihood opportunities for the local community and development of aquaculture practices of native fishes is promoted under the project. Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) has developed the protocol for one native species and first ranching of fish seeds is planned at Idamalayar reservoir in first week of April 2021.</p>					The activity is on track.		

	<p>☒ <i>Lemongrass value chain intervention,</i></p> <p>☒ <i>Sustainable Farming, Value addition and Market linkage of Tribal community at Athirappilly</i></p> <p>☒ <i>Medicinal plant-based value chain approach</i></p>	<p>Training organized for 15 tribal community members to initiate fish farming in Grama Panchayath Kuttampuzha (Ernakulam District)</p> <p>NTFP (including branding & marketing of Vanasree ecoshops & products)</p> <p>A market outreach programme was carried out at Rajagiri Basar, Kochi from March 5-7,2021 for Malayattoor Vanasree to support the marketing of Non-Timber Forest Produces.</p> <p>Model Eco shop design concept and 3D design shared with forest officials in Malayattoor. It is expected to launch the Eco shop by next quarter.</p> <p>Promotion of Bamboo & reed based livelihood</p> <p>Through this intervention the objective is to provide support to the local communities dependent upon bamboo and reed-based livelihoods primarily in Adimali, Mankulam, Athirappilly and Kuttampuzha with required skilling, training, capacity building, equipping them with marketing strategies, enhancing the product quality and product lines, building institutional mechanisms and facilitating strong market linkages. The target group include tribal community members, women, members from the SC community, low-income groups etc.</p>														
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		<p>An orientation workshop was conducted at Kuttampuzha Panchayath with community members in March 2021. Market linkage with two buyers arranged for the community members with total sale value of over INR 1 lakh.</p> <p>Convergence with Athirappilly Tribal Valley Agricultural Project (ATVAP) In convergence with the agriculture department for Athirappilly Tribal Valley Agricultural Project (Rs 100 Mn project over three years) the activity envisages to improve the livelihood of tribal farmers through the adoption of better farming practices, better output from unit farm area, Organic and rainforest certified products, value addition of farm products and exploring the tribal farm tourism potential of the location. A mobile app for digital mapping of Individual farm plots under ATVAP was launched on February 25th, 2021 in the presence of State Agriculture Minister</p> <p>Medicinal Plants for livelihood generation It is aimed at expanding the cultivation of indigenous medicinal plant species which can be utilized by the households for remedial purpose along with contributing</p>								
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		<p>towards biodiversity conservation. The non-commercial aspect of nurturing and using medicinal plants along with equipping the community members with relevant traditional knowledge in this regard is given focus here.</p> <p>Orientation workshop on homestead medicinal plants was conducted in Marayoor, Devikulam (Idukki district) and Athirappilly (Thrissur district) during March 2021.</p> <p>Lemongrass value chain</p> <p>The assignment aims to strengthen the Lemon grass value chain for conservation based and sustainable livelihood practices in the project landscape. The intervention will include the assessment of current cultivation practices, climatic conditions for suitability of variety and practices, evaluating the current processing techniques and scope for improvement, introduction of energy efficient model distillation units, developing marketing linkages, training for production of value-added products and exploring the possibility of cultivation of other medical and aromatic plants</p> <p>Baseline study on lemon grass value chain initiated at Marayoor GP during this</p>							
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		quarter and is expected to be completed by mid-May 2021							
	<p><i>1.3.2 Sustainable livelihood practices around biodiversity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ <i>Revival, Conservation and propagation plan for traditional practices and seed varieties among communities</i> ☑ <i>Preparation of spatial crop plan based on the assessments of anomalous cropping practices, recommendations for sustainable cropping patterns and its pilot implementation</i> ☑ <i>Access and Benefit Sharing - Documentation and developing models</i> ☑ <i>Promotion of organic/ safe to eat agriculture practices</i> ☑ <i>Agroforestry, floriculture, beekeeping</i> 	<p>Propagation of traditional agriculture practices and seed conservation activities</p> <p>Objective of this assignment is the promotion of traditional agricultural practices suitable for landscape characteristics. Baseline and propagation plan have been prepared for the activity on the revival, conservation and propagation of traditional practices and seeds varieties among the communities. Based on the propagation plan, propagation of traditional agriculture practices and seed conservation activities were initiated in three Grama Panchayaths during this quarter, which include seed mapping, orientation meeting with community members etc</p> <p>Spatial Crop Planning</p> <p>The socio economic, crop cultivation and crop demand survey from the households of 3 Panchayaths were completed. The chemical analysis has been done for the soil samples collected from three GPs at ICAR</p>				The activity is on track.			

		<p>National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP).</p> <p>Agroforestry The primary objective is to develop agro-forestry models for small and medium landholdings in the selected Panchayats in the project landscape. Field level farm plan preparation in progress</p> <p>Organic Village – Mankulam (Idukki District) This activity promotes organic agriculture with focus on capacity building, organic certification and building market linkages which will help to ensure increase in income of the farmers and converting the entire Mankulam Grama Panchayath into an organic village. The activity envisages bringing about market linkages and developing value chain links for organic commodities. Under Organic Mankulam activity, a training on organic certification was conducted for farmers in Mankulam Panchayath (Idukki District) during March 2021. Over 200 farmers participated in the training programme held at 5 different locations in the Panchayath.</p> <p>Conservation of Orchids An Orchidarium and Orchid Interpretation Centre at the Eravikulam National Park was completed during the quarter and would be open for public</p>							
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		from April 1,2021. Documentation of existing diversity of orchids is in progress							
	<p><i>1.3.3 Sustainable livelihood practices for farming community and supporting institutions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ <i>Passion fruit value chain interventions</i> ☐ <i>Study and implementation on Market Mapping & Value Chain analysis of Veg and fruits</i> ☐ <i>Strengthening Farmer/ tribal institution for increasing their impact</i> 	<p>Passion fruit value chain intervention</p> <p>A farmer level training workshop conducted at Adimali, Idukki District, on passion fruit product and processing was attended by 18 farmers in March 2021.</p>					The activity is on track.		
	<p><i>1.3.4 Innovation and enterprise support around ecologically sustainable livelihoods options</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ <i>Green Innovation Fund</i> ☐ <i>Developing a farm tourism model around fruit cultivation</i> ☐ <i>Intervention in Jaggery value chain</i> 	<p>Green Innovation Fund</p> <p>Green Innovation fund has been launched for social enterprises to address biodiversity conservation challenges in the landscape.</p> <p>98 applications were received from startups for the first cohort of which 11 startups were selected in February 2021. A three-day boot camp for the selected startups was conducted in the project landscape during Mar 23-25,2021. List of the selected startups is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creativity Council (Sustainable agriculture) - They are working on a manual plucking tool for uprooting weeds and cassava harvesting 2. RIOD logic pvt limited (Sustainable agriculture) - They are working on IoT based fish 					The activity is on track.		

		<p>farm monitoring and control equipment.</p> <p>3. Fuselage Innovations Pvt Ltd (Sustainable agriculture) - They are working on high precision UAVs that deliver the accurate means to capture crop data on demand.</p> <p>4. Zewa feeds (Sustainable agriculture) - They are trying to find engineered solutions to reinstate the losing ecological balance by cultivating <i>Hermetia illucens</i> (Black Soldier Flies -BSF), which converts food waste into poultry and fish feed</p> <p>5. Vivifica Sustainable Solutions (Waste management & Alternative Products) - They are working on fully automated and sleek indoor biogas plant for restaurants and households</p> <p>6. STEP (Waste management & Alternative Products) - They are working on developing soft toys using shredded and upcycled textile excess collected from tailoring shops, by leveraging the strong SHG network of Kerala.</p> <p>7. Iraloom (Waste management & Alternative Products) - They are developing a marketplace (through a Multivendor E-commerce platform) for artisans for local and alternative products based on upcycled products.</p> <p>8. VIR Naturals Pvt Ltd (Waste management & Alternative Products) -They are working on making cutleries more eco-friendly using alternative</p>								
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		<p>materials, which can be used as cattle feed, poultry feed, fish feed or organic manure after 'original' use.</p> <p>9. Leopard Tech Labs Pvt Ltd (Biodiversity & Tourism) - They are working on developing a next generation solution for participatory human wildlife conflict mitigation.</p> <p>10. Farm365 Innovations (Biodiversity & Tourism) - They are working on developing a cost effective and revolutionary technology to protect the agricultural land/farmers across the globe from crop raiding wild herbivores</p> <p>11. Ecodew (Water) - They are working on wastewater treatment system for restaurants or SME's the inhouse developed CRXFLOW membrane Technology.</p>							
Output 1.4: Community-based models developed for sustainable access and use of forest resources by local communities	<i>1.4.1 Developing a comprehensive strategy based on evaluation of socio-economic study of Edamalakudy</i>	This activity could not be carried out because of Covid restrictions in the Panchayath. The Panchayath had isolated during Covid.							
	<i>1.4.2 Implementation based on the comprehensive strategy for Edamalakudy</i>	This activity could not be carried out because of Covid restrictions in the Panchayath. The Panchayath had isolated during Covid.							
	<i>1.4.3 Facilitation in implementation of</i>	A meeting on facilitation of Forest Rights Act (FRA)							

	<i>Community Forest Right in project landscape.</i>	implementation held on 25 January 2021 in continuation with the training programme conducted during November 2020. It was decided to start with implementation in 5 to 10 settlements out of 28 in Edamalakkudy. WWF India will train the forest officials on resource mapping and FRA process. The data will be validated by the WWF India.							
	<i>1.4.4 Technical Experts/Consultants extended to MoEFCC, Haritha Kerala Mission and State Forest Department (Salaries)</i>	Consultancy & technical expertise related expenses							
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR OUTCOME 1						\$ 1,89,289.49			
Outcome 2: Multiple use landscape management is applied to secure the ecological integrity of the High Range landscape									
Output 2.1: <i>Capacities of conservation and production sector personnel developed for applying landscape approaches in to sectoral planning and operations</i>	<i>2.1.1 Geospatial mapping of the landscape using high resolution satellite imagery and ground information (different sector & ecological attributes) Inventorizing high value biodiversity areas & assessment of flora and fauna of selected sholas inside tea estate</i>	Completed ground truthing of 5 GPs for Land Use Land Cover (LULC) maps. LULC and Time series analysis with inventory on decadal LULC change from 2000-2010-2020 including Ground Truthing of Mankulam GP completed. The developed LULC maps were shared for State of Sector document preparation, Carbon Neutral Mankulam planning; Human Wildlife conflict strategy for Mankulam by Shola Trust; Discussion with Town Planning Department for Mankulam GP; for developing activities for Water quality improvement at Nallathani River.				Activity is on track. Ground truthing is an important element.			

	<i>2.1.2 Develop & validate state of sector documents for mainstreaming into the policies and practices of sectoral stakeholders (Tea, Coffee, Cardamom, Oil, Forest plantations and Tourism sectors)</i>	State of Sector document with sectoral biodiversity plans is being developed for an acreage of approx. 40,000 hectares falling under Tea, Coffee, Cardamom, Oil palm and Forest. Physical stakeholder consultations with Tea, coffee, cardamom, oil palm and forest plantations conducted from 8 - 12 February 2021 and 24-26 March 2021. Preliminary strategies for biodiversity friendly practices in Tea, Coffee, Cardamon, oil palm and forest plantations developed were validated during the field visits. Second progress report submitted on 8 th February 2021.					Activity is on track.			
Output 2.2: <i>Mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns in key production sectors demonstrated</i>	<i>2.2.1 Demonstration of developed potential strategies in plantation sector (tea, cardamom, coffee, forest plantations)</i>	Energy Audit For establishing the baseline, an Investment Grade Energy Audit (IGEA) is being carried out in two factories viz a viz orthodox and CTC facilities in the landscape. Thermal Energy in the form of firewood hold 94 % of the total energy consumed in CTC factory. This quantifies to thermal energy (biomass) of 22.92 kWh/kg of CTC production. Thermal Energy in the form of firewood hold 97 % of the total energy consumed in Orthodox tea factory. This quantifies to thermal energy (biomass) of 26.14 kWh/kg of production of Orthodox production. The output of the IGEA will be to develop a strategy towards					Activity is on track.			

		<p>reducing energy usage in tea factories. The draft IGEA report is developed highlighting the baseline of electrical and thermal energy consumption of two tea factories in the landscape. The draft report provides energy conservation measures and recommendations in withering, drying and grading processes as well as in electrical and lighting systems. The draft second progress report on preliminary assessment report submitted on 1st September 2020. A technical review meeting on the findings was organized on 9th September 2020 for quality check. Second progress report based on preliminary field visits submitted. Third progress report submitted on Investment Grade Energy Audit including points emerged during draft report discussion. Final draft shared on March 18th for comments and suggestions from PMU.</p>						
	<p><i>2.2.2 Demonstration of developed potential strategies in Tourism sector in the landscape</i></p>	<p>Sustainable Tourism Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High value low impact tourism models at Kuttampuzha and Mankulam Panchayaths <p>It is aimed to develop a Sustainable community tourism model to be piloted in Kuttampuzha and Mankulam panchayaths where tourism</p>				<p>Activity is on track.</p>		

		<p>development is in its infancy. This will be market linked replicable and sustainable tourism model with measurable benefits for the local community and biodiversity of the landscape. Tourism Sustainability Plan prepared by technical agency for Mankulam and Kuttampuzha Panchayats. As part of developing the Sustainable Tourism Plan, several consultations with Government stakeholders along with public, private and civil society partners were conducted. Secondary data collected from the Panchayat and other departments/agencies and analysed to develop the plan and propose recommendations. Discussions with various stakeholders, include Panchayath Presidents, Ward Members, Forest department officials, Kudumbashree members, Tribal officers & promoters, were conducted during the field visits. These discussions gave out a holistic picture of the project landscape identifying the resources for sustainable tourism, the existing challenges, as well as in identifying the public, private and civil society partners who shall act as future Ambassadors of sustainable development in the region. Brief presentation on the proposed plan was done for the newly elected Panchayath governing body in January 2021</p>							
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		<p>A subcommittee for Anakayam Destination Management and Vellaramkuthu Destination Management have been formed in February and March respectively.</p> <p>Rupees 15 Lakh (USD 20,000) is currently allocated in the Kuttampuzha GP annual plan 2021-22 for the Aanakkayam tourist destination project for which technical inputs were given by UNDP project. Agricultural Calendar and festival calendar prepared as part of the sustainability plan.</p> <p>Following capacity building programmes completed</p> <p>Kuttampuzha: Capacity building training for Homestay providers on 19-22 Jan 2021 with 29 participants Capacity building training for Transporters on 23 Jan 2021 with 21 participants Capacity building training for Guides on 11 Mar 2021 with 28 participants Orientation for existing HS providers on 12 Mar 2021 with 15 participants</p> <p>Mankulam: Capacity building training for Homestay providers on 5, 6, 7 March 2021 with 28 participants Capacity building training for Transporters on 8 Mar 2021 with 15 participants Capacity building training for Guides on</p>								
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		<p>9 Mar 2021 with 22 participants Orientation for Farmers/Farm tourism on 20 Mar 2021 with 23 participants</p> <p>Community members who were interested in immediately starting homestead operations were visited by technical agency team members and to assess their feasibility based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current state of the establishment (services, facilities on offer). ▪ Potential for tourism at the site. Feasibility of Sustainable tourism models and their need. ▪ Challenges posed / Areas to work in order to convert them into sustainable tourism products. <p style="text-align: center;">- Responsible Protocol Development and Demonstration</p> <p>In order to address the need for a responsible tourism approach in project landscape, it is aimed to develop a biodiversity integrated Responsible Tourism protocol. Responsible Tourism protocol will include tourism operators, hoteliers, local self-governments, government agencies, local community, civil society organizations and tourists to take responsibility, take action to make the tourism in the locality more sustainable.</p>								
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		Preparation of responsible tourism draft protocol for mountain landscape completed							
	<i>2.2.3 Removal of invasive and exotic species and Eco- restoration of degraded locations outside forest areas</i>	<p>Biodiversity Parks</p> <p>Biodiversity Parks/ Green islands aim at developing biodiversity demonstration plots and ensure community participation for biodiversity conservation. It is done in convergence with the MGNREGS workforce. Planting completed in 12 plots across 7 Panchayaths – Marayoor, Kanthalloor, Chinnakanal, Mankulam, Adimali Panchayaths in Idukki District, Kuttampuzha in Ernakulam District and Athirapilly in Thrissur District Saplings were sourced from Central Nursery by Forest Department, MGNREGS nursery and Social Forestry Nursery. Around 1220 saplings, including medicinal plants varieties and native fruit trees, were procured and planted across the 12 locations. Discussions initiated in linking the Pacha Thuruthu (Green Islands) with local education institutions. Discussions initiated with Adimali Govt. School for starting a biodiversity knowledge centre.</p>				Activity is on track.			
	<i>2.2.4 Adopting Soil stabilization measures outside forest, especially</i>	In the context of frequent natural calamities in Kerala, it is important to prepare local level				Activity is on track.			

	<i>at identified landslide prone areas in Devikulam block such as along the National High Way from Munnar to Chinnakanal by planting vetiver, shola species and other deep rooted species along the synforms.</i>	disaster plans and how technology can be used for disaster preparedness. Munnar Panchayath in Idukki district is selected for pilot based on suggestion by Devikulam Sub Collector. Mapping of landslide prone areas in Munnar Panchayath initiated as part of developing an ICT tool on disaster preparedness for district authorities.							
Output 2.3: <i>Best practices documented and disseminated for improving decision making on sustainable resource management and use</i>	<i>2.3.1 Updation of State biodiversity strategies and action plan</i>	Detailed proposal submitted along with detailed strategy for resource mobilization.				Activity is on track.			
	<i>2.3.2 Develop key policies and management framework/ decisions adopted at local and state level related to sustainable mountain landscape management</i>	Discussions were held.				Activity is on track.			
	<i>2.3.3 Technical Experts/Consultants extended to MoEFCC, HarithaKeralam Mission and State Forest Department (salaries)</i>	Consultancy charges and PMU costs							
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR OUTCOME 2									\$ 46,521.26
Outcome 3: Commonly accepted governance framework for multiple-use high range landscape management evolved									

<p>Output 3.1: Landscape level management plans and sustainable resource management systems in place</p>	<p><i>Improved Protected Area Management</i> 3.1.1 Measures to mitigate threats such as forest fire, road kills etc in biodiversity conservation Technologies for monitoring wildlife movement - installation of thermal sensor at Malayattoor & Chalakkudy as part of reducing human wildlife conflict</p>	<p>The taxonomic inventory of shola species has been completed and listed out the species with its significance (21 species of mammals - 4 endangered, 4 Endemic; 303 Birds with 17 high conservation priority; 15 species of Reptiles 9 endemic; 20 species of Amphibians 10 RET; Flora 101 species with 30 Endemic) A GIS center has been established at Vazhachal FDA for improved forest management and habitat improvement. This will act as a geo-database of the division.</p>					Activity is on track.			
	<p>3.1.2 Management and reduction of waste inside the forested areas supporting Green Grass Project</p>	<p>The activity will be initiated from the next quarter</p>								
	<p>3.1.3. Protection of sandal wood forests through improved technologies (establishing digital fences in selected priority areas)</p>	<p>The activity will be initiated from the next quarter</p>								
<p>Output 3.2. Institutional platforms of multiple stakeholders evolved and strengthened at appropriate levels for planning and reviewing sustainable resource use</p>	<p>3.2.1 Training forest dependent communities, VSS, EDCs & frontline forest officials on: Livelihood skill development (advanced wood working course to 25 tribal youth)</p>	<p>The activity will be initiated from the next quarter</p>								

	<i>Eco tourism destination management: Visitor management and disaster risk reduction in eco-tourism destinations</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>Local Action Plan for Climate Change in 8 FDAs (106 VSS & EDCs)</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>Advanced community research improvement: census techniques & habitat monitoring protocol by giving training and involving tribal communities</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.2.2 Community based bird conservation at Thattekad and adjoining areas Conducting certified course on ornithology and birding for tribal youth Publishing book on bird in local language Developing Salim Ali sathram as heritage building</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.2.3 Strengthening of Chilla market through automation of existing market system- Establishing goods transportation facilities for tribal NTFPs and Agriculture produces from tribal settlements</i>	The Kerala Forest Department of Marayoor Sandal Division in Idukki district started a local open market called 'Chilla' ('Protection' in English), to ensure the farmers at the tribal settlements in the region get a fair price for their organically grown agricultural produce. The main aim of the market is to help the tribal farmers sell their products and livestock from their tribal settlements at a reasonable price.							

		<p>Considering the challenges at Chilla market, it is important to explore the possibility of Process automation at Chilla market. Process automation is the use of technology to automate business processes to sequentially transition from one task to the next with minimal human intervention.</p> <p>The primary objective of the assignment is to undertake an intervention in the process automation of Chilla market which will help in easy operations and can reap major benefits.</p> <p>The agency for doing automation has been selected and MoU between FDA and the startup has been signed to initiate the automation process. Demonstration of automation process completed, and installation of equipment is under process.</p>							
	<i>3.2.4. Strengthening of RRT (Marayoor, Munnar & Malayattoor) in the landscape by providing improved facilities & establishing tool rooms</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.2.5 Establishing decision support system in the form of centralised digital database management of existing geospatial maps, studies, surveys, research publications and so on.</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.2.6 Upgradation of eco-tourism destination and interpretation centre to</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							

	<i>address the special needs and make them differently abled friendly at Athirappally and Thattekad including development of eco-tourism website for differently abled</i>								
	<i>3.2.7 Developing green building code with energy efficient facilities & piloting the same in the landscape (Divisional Office, Forest Station IB and Check post – one each)</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.2.8 Establishment of live museum at Marayoor</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.2.9 Facilitating landscape level multi stakeholder forum for sustainable landscape management</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	Enhancing management effectiveness of HVBA								
Output 3.3: <i>Management effectiveness of designated biodiversity rich ecosystems are strengthened to address existing and emerging challenges to ecosystem conservation and services</i>	<i>3.3.1. Establishment of cyber wildlife crime control cell at Forest Head Quarters</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							

	<p><i>3.3.2. Review of Management Plan guidelines; Review of State Forest Policy</i> <i>Review and validation of METT and MEE scores of PAs within the project landscape to identify gaps</i></p>	<p>The activity will be initiated from the next quarter</p>									
	<p><i>3.3.3 Developing eco-compatible habitat monitoring cell inside Eravikulam National Park</i> <i>Establishment of habitat and wildlife health monitoring cell at Thattekkad</i></p>	<p>Eravikulam National Park forms the largest conservation landscapes in the Western Ghats with several rare and endemic species including largest viable population of Nilgiri tahr in the world. With these diverse values the park is holding, monitoring of the various habitat types becomes a challenging task. To improve the habitat, permanent monitoring stations are envisaged in an eco-friendly manner.</p> <p>The construction of earthen structures is near completion and procurement of equipment for installation is going on.</p> <p>The revamping of the infrastructure for the habitat monitoring cell is done by the co-financing from Forest Department at Thattekkad. The tendering for purchase of equipment for the monitoring cell is on going</p>									
	<p><i>3.3.4. Development of detailed project report - Centralized Hospital for Elephants at Vadakkanchery & State level Digital Forensic Lab at Forest Head Quarters</i></p>	<p>The activity will be initiated from the next quarter</p>									

	<i>Habitat Improvement – Strategies and Implementation</i>								
	<i>3.3.5 Removal of plantations (Wattle and Eucalyptus), Eradication of alien weeds, from PAs and outside PAs, Removal of alien species from the high altitude montane grassland (inside and outside the PAs), Restoration of identified vulnerable and degraded forest areas (including shola/ grasslands segments within PAs and other degraded areas including improvement of Nilgiri Tahr habitat in Meesappulimala (Removal of exotics and restoration of grasslands) & designing a long term sustainability plan for Nilgiri Tahr</i>	<p>Monitoring plots were identified to evaluate the efficacy of restoration process.</p> <p>Controlled removal of exotics from the forest areas of Pampadumshola, Kurinjimala and reserve forests of Munnar is ongoing.</p> <p>From the HVBA of Mankulam Forests, nearly 1.5 Tons of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) <i>Clidemia hirta</i> removed from an area of 10 ha out of 35 ha, especially along the trekking path and locations where the canopy has become opened – Mankulam FDA.</p> <p>Out of 14 waterholes in Thattekad Bird Sanctuary, initiated removal of IAS (<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>, <i>Limnophila heterophylla</i>, <i>Salvinia</i> species) from 7. Nearly 3.5 Tons were removed and improved the habitat of aquatic migratory birds – Idukki FDA</p>							
	<i>3.3.6 Bamboo ecosystems -mapping of species, age and developing conservation measures(such as measures to prevent exotic invasion and forest fire) at Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.3.7 Conservation of special habitat like Hornbill and Vayal</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							

	<i>ecosystems based on the recommendation from the study titled 'Ecosystem requirements of Hornbill' 2019-2020</i>								
	<i>3.3.8 Reviving of aquatic ecosystems at Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary and establishing sustainable monitoring systems for improving the migratory bird habitat</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.3.9 Rejuvenation of flood affected Riparian vegetation (Stabilization of Riverbanks by geotextiles and other environment friendly techniques, planting of suitable riparian saplings) – Chalakkudy River & tributaries of Periyar River</i>	In Vazhachal Forest Division, five potential locations were identified for restoration. 20 species of riparian plants were identified for replanting. Nearly 5000 saplings will be procured this year before the onset of monsoon. In the consecutive years, the plants required for restoration will be availed from the newly established nursery itself.							
	<i>3.3.10 Scientific video documentation of unique features in the landscape such as elephant congregation at Anakkulam and best practices of the Project such as Chilla Market, tree ladder etc in the form of documentaries, coffee table books, short films and IEC materials</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.3.11 Study on home ranges - Nilgiri Tahr, Nilgiri Martin, Frogmouth and other key species</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							

	<i>3.3.12 Demonstrating measures to conserve the soil and water resources inside and outside the Protected Areas by improving the existing water retaining facilities and checking gully formation in the high-altitude grasslands.</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>Human Wildlife Interface management</i>								
	<i>3.3.13 Management of human-wildlife interface (identification and mapping of corridors, development of early warning systems and other short term and long-term strategies with potentials of co-financing)</i>	The sites for establishing sensor for alerting elephant entry into settlement area has been identified. Consultation were made with few agencies to demonstrate the sensor techniques. The agency visited the locations and mapped the area. Work order will be issued after getting permission from the Chief Conservator of Forests, High Range Circle.							
	<i>3.3.14 Facilitating the preparation of comprehensive plan for protecting the Anayirangal elephant ecosystems in Chinnakkanal</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
	<i>3.3.15 Establishment of Veterinary Care unit - rescue and rehabilitation centre; Establishment of Monkey Rescue Centre at Malayattoor</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							
Output 3.4: <i>Rare Endangered and Threatened</i>	<i>3.4.1 Establishment of nurseries with micro-propagation facility for RET species at Devikulam</i>	The activity will be initiated from the next quarter							

(RET) ecosystems and endemic species are secured through improved conservation measures										
	3.4.2 Establishment of centralised grassland/shola/ nursery at Devikulam & Pampadumshola. Sandalwood nursery at Marayoor. Riparian species nursery at Chalakkudy & Vazhachal	924 mother beds at Devikulam and 720 in Pampadumshola National Park established for grassland species (2 species). Beds were created at Marayoor for sandalwood plant species.								
	3.4.3 Technical Experts/Consultants extended to MoEFCC, Haritha Keralam Mission and State Forest Department (Salaries)	Consultancy & technical expertise related charges.								
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR OUTCOME 3									\$ 69,122.85	
Project Management Cost								\$ 2,814.83		
							Sub Total: \$ 304,933.6			
							Project Management Expenses: \$ 2,814.83			
							Grand Total: \$ 305,373.19			

Delivery Status:

Delivery target for 2021: USD 2,000,000

Delivery for 2021 by end of Quarter 1: USD 305,373.19

2. PO's Overall Analytical Report**2.1. Narrative** – based on PO's own assessment, BTORs and other reports

2.1.1. Comments on progress in project as per QPR, and on whether the project is on the right track:

The project is on track. The Mid Term Review was conducted during this quarter. The MTR was a good experience for the team to understand how to take forward the activities in the future.

Two occurrences affected the project progress during the Q1 reporting period – 1. The Covid-19 induced restrictions in the state and 2. The Model Code of Conduct on account of State Assembly Elections during March 2021.

2.1.2. List of project issues/ risks that the PO wants to ensure are included and addressed in the PSC:

List of issues:

1. Forming a Landscape Level Advisory Committee with landscape level stakeholders for landscape level convergence
2. Forming a State Level Advisory Committee with state level stakeholders for state level convergence
3. Project extension on account of time lost due to Covid and fund transfer delay

2.1.3. List of issues that the PO wants to escalate to unit Heads/ senior management:

List of issues:

1. The project continues to face apprehensions on certain project activities being contradictory to the interests of few sections of the community; The project team and the SPV have tried to assuage these fears through local level meetings and block/ district level meetings.

2.2. Section on Gender and Inclusion

2.2.1. What were risks related to:

a) mainstreaming gender

The project takes into consideration the gender dimensions while undertaking activities related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Several interventions have been undertaken w.r.t training and capacity building for alternate livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management wherein 90% participants were women. The key risks related to mainstreaming gender includes:

1. Loss of livelihood opportunities as a result of Covid related restrictions
2. Social stigma associated with sanitation workers especially in the Covid period leads to women green entrepreneurs (Haritha Karma Sena) not getting expected support from the general public in carrying out their responsibilities
3. Climate vulnerabilities leading to failure of crops being promoted through the project (like sustainable sugarcane farming, lemongrass, traditional seeds like millets/ rice varieties etc.) where women were taking lead
4. Lack of markets for products from the women led enterprises
5. Gender roles with regards to natural resources like women can take up livelihood opportunities close to home, men to take up activities that involve more skill & training, etc.
6. Unavailability of a credible database on LGBTQ community for gender mainstreaming of genders other than male & female

b) concerns of women and men belonging to the marginalized groups e.g. related to participation, access and control of resources and benefits, etc.?

1. Loss of livelihood opportunities as a result of Covid related restrictions
2. Climate vulnerabilities leading to failure of crops being promoted through the project (like sustainable sugarcane farming, lemongrass, traditional seeds like millets/ rice varieties etc.)
3. Lack of markets for products

2.2.2. What were challenges related to:

a) mainstreaming gender:

1. Covid restrictions and health concerns led to stigma associated with the sanitation workers who are women SHG members or Haritha Karma Sena. This was one of the reasons why they could not go for household collection of solid waste in the project area.
2. Unavailability of a credible database on LGBTQ community for gender mainstreaming of genders other than male & female
3. Because of restrictions in movement of people and closure of shops and other commercial establishments, women have lost livelihood opportunities including Employment Guarantee Schemes

b) concerns of women and men belonging to the marginalised groups, e.g. related to participation, access and control of resources and benefits, socio-cultural/institutional obstacles, etc.? Any new upcoming opportunities/ ideas on facilitating gender & inclusion in the project?

1. Loss of livelihood opportunities as a result of Covid related restrictions
2. Climate vulnerabilities leading to failure of crops being promoted through the project (like sustainable sugarcane farming, lemongrass, traditional seeds like millets/ rice varieties etc.)

2.3. Any innovations/ success stories (completed or ones to watch for) that PO wishes to bring on board or for Communications to follow up:

1. Sustainable Sugarcane initiative – SSI focus on improvement of value chain of Sugarcane with focus on production side intervention for small and marginal farmers in Marayoor and Kanthalloor Panchayaths
2. Green Innovation Fund - Green Innovation fund has been launched for social enterprises to address biodiversity conservation challenges in the landscape.
3. Carbon Neutral Mankulam - Through the project, a unique attempt is being made to develop Mankulam Grama Panchayath as a Carbon neutral panchayath. Mankulam Panchayath has over 1000 farmers practicing organic agriculture and is very rich in forest cover.
4. Biodiversity Parks - Green islands/ Biodiversity parks aim at developing biodiversity demonstration plots and ensure community participation for biodiversity conservation. It is done in convergence with the MGNREGS workforce. Maintenance is ongoing in 12 plots across 7 Panchayaths – Marayoor, Kanthalloor, Chinnakanal, Mankulam, Adimali, Kuttampuzha and Athirappilly. Saplings were sourced from Central Nursery by Forest Department, MGNREGS nursery and Social Forestry Nursery. Around 1220 saplings, including medicinal plants varieties and native fruit trees, were procured, and planted across the 12 locations generally linked with local educational institutions.
5. Sustainable Tourism initiatives - High value low impact tourism models at Kuttampuzha (Ernakulam District) and Mankulam Panchayath (Idukki District). A community centered sustainable tourism model is being developed for the two panchayaths. The sustainable tourism plan is developed based on resource mapping and stake holder consultations done in the two Panchayaths. Experiential tourism packages and products promoted for local economic development.

2.4: Any partnerships / success stories (completed or ones to watch for) that PO wishes to bring on board or for Communications and partnerships team to follow up: None to report

Anusha Sharma

Team Leader a.i.